

NEWFIELDS VILLAGE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes from 01/04/2022

Approved 02/07/2022

Distribution:

Ray Buxton Jr.
Cathy Nelson-Smith
George Drinkwater
Paula Boyle
Peter Hellfach
Wendy Chase

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Newfields Village Water & Sewer District was called to order at 7:00 pm on January 4, 2022, at the Water & Sewer District Office, 75 Main Street.

Present: Commissioners Ray Buxton, Cathy Nelson-Smith, George Drinkwater, Peter Hellfach, Superintendent, Paula Boyle, HTA Engineer and Treasurer Wendy Chase.

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 6, 2021 were unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Open Issues

1. **Irving Gas Station a.k.a. College Auto Property.** Paula said her colleague is coordinating with the owners to get a plan with the correct data to put the new water lines for the gas station into the GIS maps. She left copies of the GIS water system map and sewer system map for the District's files. She estimated that it would take a couple of hours for HTA CAD expert to add that to the maps. Paula said she would have more information for the February meeting.
2. **Conservation Plan.**
 - a) Calibrating the Source Meters: Due every 3 years. Next calibration deadline is by the end of year 2024.
 - b) Leak Log: Ray has a copy of the leak log excel spreadsheet. Paula said that the most recent leak in town has to be added to the spreadsheet. The last leak at the Gryzbowski residence on Old Lee Road dispersed 15k to 20k gallons of water per day. The leak log is part of the conservation plan and has to be submitted to the State periodically. Paula explained that it is important to keep an updated list.
 - c) Emergency Plan: Reviewed annually and updated every 6 years. The next review is due March 2027.
3. **Sludge Removal.** This is on hold. **In Process.**
4. **Ongoing projects:**
 - a. Remove sludge from Lagoons along with piping and old aeration system – **on hold.**
 - b. Replace existing aeration system with a permanent solution – **on hold.**
 - c. **ARPA money.** Paula mentioned that there may be some ARPA money for sewer work. The Town sent a check to the District for \$31,000.00.
5. **Water Treatment & Supply Study.** The District voted to spend \$75,000 on a study to reduce arsenic in the water supply. Paula said that Barry Miller tested the wells and will put together a report to HTA. Well #1 hasn't lost capacity; Wells 2 & 4 have lost capacity (they are shallow wells). Paula said that is usually rectified by cleaning the wells. Paula will contact Newmarket and set up a meeting with the Town Manager and the Environmental Services Director Sean Greig to discuss the potential of tying into Newmarket's water system. The District has to have a plan to reduce the arsenic in our water supply to submit to the State by the end of the year. Paula said that they received information on the arsenic speciation testing and some pfas info but will not have the report ready to submit to the Commissioners

until the January meeting, but because we are in compliance NH DES is fine with getting the report in January instead of the end of this year. Paula said that the District is not eligible for funding for this project because of the median local income in Newfields is too high. She said that we will pursue any ARPA money that may be available for this project. Reducing the arsenic is in the million-dollar range. Barry Miller will be cleaning the wells #2 and #4 December 7th or 8th. Barry Miller is retiring and the organized two young me to clean the wells. Cleaning Well #2 did not go well. Each well costs \$9,500.00 to clean. The District hired them. **In Process.**

- a) **Consolidation Plan:** The Commissioners were sent a copy of the report by email; it's over 100 pages. The report documents what we'll need to do to get the arsenic level down to 5 parts per billion. The rolling average is just over the 5. Each time it is over the District needs to send out letters to the customers. Paula said they may be able to achieve lowering the level by reducing well 6 down to 35 gallons per minute. The basic recommendations in the report is to put an addition on the blending facility and install two filters to eliminate the arsenic; costing approximately \$840,000. She would like to set up a teams meeting with the Commissioners tomorrow at 3:00 PM. Paula said that Pfas levels will probably be lowered by the State at some point and we would be able to change out the filters to address that when need be. Paula will be setting up a meeting with Newmarket to discuss extending the water line and receiving water from Newmarket. Peter suggested experimenting themselves in lowering the arsenic level. Notices to the district's customers need to be sent to them by January 21st advising them of the arsenic level. The Commissioners will meet to stuff envelopes and mail them out. Certification that the letters were sent has to be sent NH DES. Every time the arsenic level is above 5 parts were billion a notice has to be sent to the customers by mail. Discussion ensued about ways to get well the level down by decreasing water from well #6. Paula explained that the blending is very tricky; it's a difficult balance between decreasing water to lower the arsenic but also keeping up with the daily water demand. The PH level is high in well #6 and to treat it would require acid chemicals which raises havoc on the system corrosion-wise, and the cost is more.

6. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits.

- a) **Small Wastewater Treatment Facility General Permit (WWTFGP) (Village District purview)**– was issued September 28, 2021 and will became effective December 1, 2021. The Small WWTF General Permit is designed to authorize discharges of wastewater from publicly owned treatment works and other treatment works that treat domestic sewage. The permit establishes effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, reporting requirements and standard conditions for facilities that discharge to fresh and marine waters in MA and NH. Instead of an application, eligible facilities may choose to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI). Peter submitted the NOI. This permit is in draft form. Peter said that nitrogen sampling was changed from monthly to quarterly and pfas sampling was changed from quarterly to twice a year. Paula said that EPA wants the District to calculate the average monthly flow using on the days we discharge. HTA disagrees with this method of calculating. They need to have a conversation with EPA on how the seasonal average total nitrogen should be calculated. The Commissioners agreed to have HTA speak to EPA to explain to them how we should be calculating. The Notice of Intent (NOI) is due January 29, 2022. Paula drafted a letter for Ray to sign. They will hold off mailing it because once it's received by the State the new requirements come into effect. Peter will have to do more sampling and the samples will have to be sent to Concord 3 days per week by courier. Paula said that a new CMON requirement which has to do with operating the sewer system that will take effect; we will also be responsible for submitting an annual plan to

the State. She has asked Mike Trenk to look into how much that would cost to put that plan together. **In Process.**

- b) **Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit (GBTNGP) (Village District Purview)** – The GBTNGP was issued for 13 eligible wastewater treatment facilities that discharge treated wastewater containing nitrogen within the Great Bay watershed in NH. It was issued on November 24, 2020 and became effective February 1, 2021. The permit establishes total nitrogen effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, reporting requirements and standard conditions for the 13 WWTFs. The discharge of all pollutants other than nitrogen from these WWTFs will continue to be authorized by each WWTS's respective individual NPDES permit. Rather than address this permitting task on a permit-by-permit basis, EPA instead fashioned a general permit designed to comprehensively regulate nitrogen loading from 13 WWTFs in NH on a gross, watershed-wide scale, incorporating an innovative and adaptive approach to achieving water quality standards in the Great Bay estuary through a combination of mandatory load limits at the WWTFs and voluntary nonpoint source nitrogen reductions. Peter submitted the NOI. This permit is in draft form. We are unique; we are the only intermittent dischargers to Great Bay. **In Process.**
- c) **NH Small MS4 General Permit (Town's Purview)**– MS4 – Municipal Storm Sewer System. What is required is regulatory compliance of stormwater discharges from MS4 (Municipal Storm Sewer System) to US waters. This is primarily the Town's responsibility. Ray is the District's liaison to the Town. Paula said that the District will have to start keeping track of non-point sources like catch basins and storm drains. Paula said that she heard from NH EPA that Pfas testing of laundromats, and car washes will now be included in the permit. Newfields has neither. Ray was invited to attend the December Planning Board Meeting to discuss Asset Management for stormwater. Paula said she was going to ask Mike Sununu if they designated someone to be responsible for keeping track nitrogen loading. Hopefully they will discuss that at the Planning Board Meeting.

C. New Items

1. The Commissioners are going to move forward on figuring new rate increases because of the cost of all the required additional testing. The Commissioners and Wendy agreed to meet on Friday, January 14th to start the process of determining new rates. **In Process.**
2. Sewer Use Ordinance. The draft was submitted to the State. Paula suggested crafting a letter to Coed Sportswear and Hutchinson Sealing advising them to look into alternative chemicals. The chemicals they use are high in nitrogen. Paula will craft the letter for review by the Commissioners.
3. Ray looked into purchasing educational pamphlets and they are very expensive. Discussion ensued regarding school field trips to the office and treatment plant. George said that there may be funding for educational materials that we could apply for
4. The new phones at the Main Office and Main Plant are up and running.
5. Peter requested replacing the Mission Alarm System at the Treatment Plant and replacing the radio at the Swamscott location. The Commissioners approved Peter's request.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2022, at the Newfields Water & Sewer District Office, 75 Main Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase

Treasurer